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December 11, 2020

Thank you for subscribing to my weekly newsletter. Below you will find important federal, state and local updates from the last week curated for you in one place.

This week, TEA commissioner Mike Morath announced that school accountability A-F ratings will be paused for the 2020-21 school year due to the ongoing disruptions associated with COVID-19. However, the STAAR test will proceed for the 2020-21 school year in order to provide critically important information about individual student learning that teachers and parents can use to help students grow. For those schools that incorporate STAAR results into teacher evaluations, TEA is providing flexibility to allow them to remove that component this school year. I would like to thank Commissioner Morath and his staff for working with school districts and the legislature to ensure that our federal requirements are met, while allowing flexibility for schools during these unprecedented times.

Should you have any questions about the information below, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please utilize email communication with our office during this time, via the email contact information at the bottom of this newsletter.

Sincerely,



State Updates

DSHS: COVID-19 Case Dashboard

Texas Case Counts

COVID-19

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019

State Of Texas Activates Federal COVID-19 Vaccination Program For Long-Term Care Staff, Residents



Office of the Texas Governor | Greg Abbott

State Of Texas Activates Federal COVID-19 Vaccination...

Governor Greg Abbott today announced that the State of Texas will participate in the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program, a federal program to vaccinate residents and staff of long-term care facilities against COVID-19. The program is ...

[Read more](https://gov.texas.gov)
gov.texas.gov

Texas Education Agency Pauses A-F Ratings For 2020-21 School Year



Texas Education Agency Pauses A-F Ratings For 2020-21...

STAAR testing will proceed so parents and educators continue to understand what students have learned this year, and to gauge the impact of the pandemic on education AUSTIN, Texas - December 10, 2020 - The Texas Education Agency announced today...

[Read more](#)
tea.texas.gov

Texas Workforce Commission: Services for Claimants



Services for Claimants TWC encourages unemployment claimants to utilize employment resources such as the Skills Enhancement Initiative and Workforce Solutions Centers. These employment services as well as state unemployment insurance and State Extended Benefits will continue after CARES Act funding expires on December 26, 2020. The federal CARES Act programs known as Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) were created through Federal Legislation as temporary assistance programs. For Texans affected by this, the TWC has a number of ways to guide workers to new opportunities and connect them to resources. Claimants are encouraged to utilize:

- [Skills Enhancement Initiative](#) – The Texas Workforce Commission has partnered with Metrix Learning to help Texas residents brush up on skills to prepare for better employment opportunities. The Metrix online learning platform provides Texans free online job readiness courses. Completion and passage of Metrix learning courses count as work search activities.
- [MyTXCareer.com](#) and [WorkinTexas.com](#) – MyTXCareer provides new users an easy streamlined way to register for WorkinTexas.com. WorkinTexas.com is a comprehensive online job search resource and matching system developed and maintained by the Texas Workforce Commission. WorkInTexas.com provides recruiting assistance to Texas employers of all types and sizes, and job search assistance to anyone seeking work in Texas.
- [Workforce Solutions Centers](#) – TWC's Workforce Solutions Partners have over 180 offices around the state and help Texans find work. They offer free services such as access to thousands of job postings, job search resources, training programs and help with exploring career options, resumé and application preparation, career development, and more. Find your local office [here](#).
- [Virtual Job Fairs](#) – With many traditional job fairs restricted due to COVID-19, Workforce Development Boards across Texas are sponsoring virtual job fairs. These events help connect workers with employment opportunities in a virtual setting that protects the health and safety of attendees. Find a list of upcoming hiring events [here](#).
- [Child Care](#) – TWC's child care services program subsidizes child care for low-income families, promoting longterm self-sufficiency by enabling parents to work or attend workforce training or education activities. Our child care program also educates parents about the availability of quality child care, which enhances children's early learning.

City of Houston & Harris County Updates

Harris County Public Health Dashboard



District 127 Updates

Woodridge Village Interlocal Agreement Unanimously Passed by Council



At Wednesday's City Council meeting, Council unanimously passed an ordinance approving an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Houston and Harris County Flood Control District for joint purchase of the Woodridge Village development and appropriating \$4,021,500 towards a regional wastewater facility. These funds will be used to improve City of Houston wastewater services by creating a new regional wastewater treatment facility in the Kingwood Region while utilizing the remaining area in collaboration with the Harris County Flood Control District as a storm water detention facility.

After Elm Grove flooded, the first time, in May 2019 resources were quickly deployed across over 20 villages in the greater Kingwood area to assess the City's stormwater infrastructure. Over the next six months, the Houston Public Works team investigated over 200,000 feet of stormwater infrastructure through televised lines. This area flooded again in September of 2019, during Tropical Storm Imelda, which kicked the City of Houston's ongoing investigations on the area to the north of Elm Grove into high gear. The City of Houston has done its job in changing codes of ordinances making development requirements within City of Houston City limits stricter and adopted ATLAS 14 requirements.

District E has highly scrutinized at least three additional developments based on this situation near jurisdictional boundaries. We have learned and are making sure that developments within the City's boundaries are put on notice. District E is committed to making sure everything that can be done to prevent and reduce future flooding is being done. The key issue with this development illustrates a need for multijurisdictional policy in place for properties in the ETJ or at the borders of jurisdictions. What happens on one side of a city limit or county line has an impact on properties that lie just feet beyond that invisible boundary.

Today's accomplishment at City Council is due to a myriad of individuals and entities which have provided input, resources, and research over the last year and a half. This Interlocal Agreement will be considered at the next County Commissioner's Court meeting taking place on Tuesday, December 15, where we hope the item will be just as successful as today's City Council agenda item.

For more information, please contact Mayor Pro Tem Martin's office at (832) 393-3008 or via email at districte@houstontx.gov.

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- Pass a background check

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Free Drive-Thru COVID-19 Testing



FREE
Drive-Thru COVID-19
TESTING



The Houston Health Department and its agency partners have announced the [schedule for sites](#) offering free COVID-19 tests the week of December 7, 2020.

The Kingwood Community Center will operate as a testing site from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Friday, December 11 through Saturday, December 12. The site will remain open until it reaches its daily capacity of 250 tests. Appointments are not required but advance registration is recommended by going to this website: www.doineedacovid19test.com.

Kingwood Community Center
4102 Rustic Woods, Kingwood, TX 77345
Friday, December 11, 2020 - Saturday, December 12, 2020
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please keep in mind there are testing sites throughout the City open to the public for free testing. You may see a [comprehensive list](#) of those sites by visiting the City's COVID-19 information website [here](#).

Capitol Office Closure

The Capitol office will remain closed in line with suggested Stay Home, Work Safe guidelines. Please utilize email communication with our office during this time, via the email contact information at the bottom of this newsletter or district127.huberty@house.texas.gov.

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